

REMARKS

Reconsideration and entry of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 6 and 10 have amended. Claims 1-15 remain pending.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McMillen (US 4296343). This rejection is respectfully traversed, but in an effort to advance prosecution of this application, claim 1, 6, and 10 have been amended to define the invention more clearly and thus, obviate the rejection. In particular, claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite that the at least one raised portion is joined directly with a surface defining the at least one recess by a generally S-shaped structure thereby defining an entirely curved and non-planar transition there-between. Claim 10 has been amended in a similar manner in that the entirely curved wall means is joined directly with a surface defining the at least one entirely curved recess by generally S-shaped structure thereby defining an entirely curved and non-planar transition there-between.

In McMillen, no entirely curved transition since there is a planar portion (A) between items 56 and 42 (see FIG. 3 below).

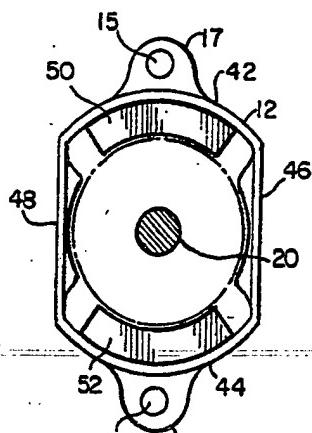


FIG. 2

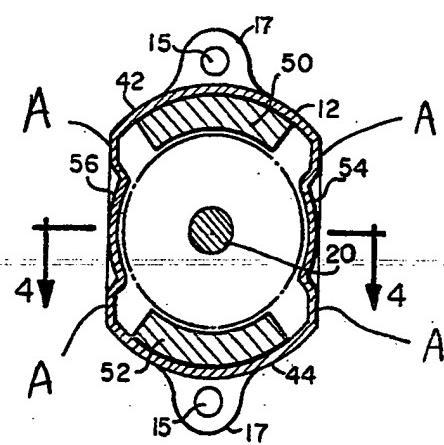


FIG. 3

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Thus, in McMillen, there is no generally S-shaped structure thereby defining an entirely curved and non-planar transition between an entirely curved raised portion 56 and an entirely curved recess 42. In fact, the planar members in McMillen are required since they are part of the flat sidewalls 46 and 48 (see FIG. 2 above), from which raised portions 54 and 56 are formed. See also FIG. 8b of McMillen wherein planar portions join items 85 and 80.

With the structure of claims 1, 6, and 10, since there is an S-shaped, entirely curved and non-planar transition between the raised portion and the recess, an air gap between the stator and armature is advantageously reduced, ensuring a robust magnetic flux circuit.

Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn since McMillen does not teach or suggest all features of claims 1, 6, and 10, and the claims that depend there-from.

All rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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